



**HB 360 Proponent Testimony**  
**Carrie Yeager, President of the Ohio Environmental Health Association**  
**House Commerce and Labor Committee**  
**Chair Gayle Manning**  
**January 22, 2020**

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, my name is Carrie Yeager and I am the Environmental Health Director at Butler County General Health District and am the President of the Ohio Environmental Health Association. OEHA's membership includes over 500 public health sanitarians, who are health inspectors at local health departments, state agencies, colleges and universities and other entities. I am here to testify on behalf of OEHA as a proponent on HB 360 introduced by Representative Erica Crawley and Representative Brett Hillyer.

HB 360 would require water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains in newly constructed public school buildings. These stations help fulfill a dual purpose of increasing the consumption of water by students and staff as well as decreasing the amount of plastic waste in the waste stream. Public health has long advocated for water to be the primary beverage of choice, especially of adolescents, to combat obesity and improve cognitive functions. The ability to fill a container of water to drink throughout the day will increase hydration throughout the day and minimize classroom trips to a fountain.

Water bottle filling stations are also methods by which to decrease the use of single-use purchased bottled water. These purchased, single-use bottles, frequently end up in the land fill and can take hundreds of years to decompose. Encouraging students and staff to utilize the water bottle filling station with a reusable water bottle can take these plastic bottles out of the waste stream. These filling stations typically can filter 3,000 gallons of water per filter, which translates to roughly 24,000 bottles of water that are no longer being wasted. A water bottle filling station serves to demonstrate to students, staff and families, that the overall health of both the student and the environment are important at Ohio schools.

Once again, Chair Manning and members of the committee, thank you for your consideration of our testimony and we urge your support of the bill.